3. Bio-fertilisers have been found to hav$_{e\ a}$ considerable scope for supplementing the nitrogen requirement. Rhizo-bium has been found to have a wider application for pulses and legume oilseeds and Blu$_e$ Green Algae for wet land rice. Research efforts are required to be continued for exploiting other bio-fertilisers viz. Azotobacter, Azospirillum and Azolla.

4. A National Culture Collection Bank for Rhizobium and Blue Green Algae should be established. Tt should also be obligatory for all strains to be deposited in the Bank with full documentation. This centre will function both as a depository and service centre.

5. To promote th$_e$ use of and to generate the demand of bio- fertilizers, national demonstrations, training programmes and other extension activities should be taken up.

6. Research efforts should b$_e$ continued to develop the technical know-how in production, marketing, storage and trans-portation, of bio-fertilisers.

7. Quality control is an essential com-ponent of promotion and us$_e$ of bio- fertilisers. Production units should have build in quality control facilities before the bio-fertilissrs are released for marketing.

8. Research activities should continue to evolve effective strains suitable for various soil, crop, ecological and environment conditions for obtaining maximum benefits from the. use of bio-fertilisers.

9. A$_n$ appropriate legislation should bo enacted to prescribe the standards of ap-proved bio-fertilisers and check their quality.

10. The fertiliser industry should be effectively involved in marketing, distri bution and promiotion of bio-fertilisers. The promotion of bio-fertilisers should form a component of their promotional activities.

11. Marketing Federations, Agro- indus tries, National Seeds Corporation, State Seeds Corporations, State Farms Corpora tions should take up production and marke ting of bio-fertilisers.

12. National Project on Bio-Fertilisers sanctioned by th$_e$ Government for esta blishment of one national, six regional and 40 sub-centres was appreciated. It was recommended that th$_e$ project should be strengthened during th$_e$ Seventh Five Year Pla$_n$ to enlarge its activities for pro motion, marketing and quality control of bio-fertilisers.

13. The private entrepreneurs intend ing to produce bio-fertilisers should also invest on i[s promotion through field de monstration and other extension program mes.

14. It was noted that various types oi bio-fertilisers are being successfully used in various countries such as Australia, USA Brazil, Canada, New Zealand, China and Vietnam. They have not only develop ed the technologies for large scale Pro~ duction but have als$_0$ developed the mar keting transportation also distribution systems. India should interact with these countries and take benefit of the ex perience of thes$_e$ countrie$_s$ to the extent 'applicable to Indian conditions.

Gap between Controlled and Open Market Prices of Essential Commodities

2575. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is wide gap between controlled and market prices of essential commodities in the country at present;

(b) if so, what, are the reasons therefor,

(c) to what extent these market prices are comparable with those during the last three years; and

fd) what measures Government propose to take to remove this gap?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CTVTL SUPPLIES (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO): (a) For the commodities sold through the-public distribution system for which there is a dual price system:, some variation between the prices fixed by the Government and the market prices exists.

(b) The main reason for the difference between the two prices is the Government's policy to make available these commodities to the common people, particularly the weaker and vulnerable sections of society at reasonable prices. The variation is also to some extent influenced by the demand for and supply of each commodity.

(c) The market prices of essential commodities have moved up during the last 3 years at varying rates.

(d) The main thrust of the Government policy is t_0 improve the availability of essential commodities by increased pro duction, better and larger coverage by the public distribution system, imports wherever necessary, regulation of exports and enforcement of the various provisions under the Essential Commodities Act and similar legislations. It has been impressed upon State Governments from time to . time to take drastic action against those sons selling commodities at prices higher than fixed by the Government.

Cashew Plantation programme under Centrally Sponsored Schemes

2576. SHRI JAGADISH JANI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the States where cashew plantation programme has been undertaken under centrally sponsored schemes;

(b) whether such schemes have been implemented in Orissa;

(c) if so, what is the total areas in different districts of Orissa which have been covered under cashew plantation programme so far; and

(d) what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND CO-OPERATION (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) The centrally sponsored scheme on package programme on cashewnut is being implemented in the states of Kerala, Karnataka, Andhra Pro-desh Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Orissa, West Bengal, Tripura and Union Territories of Goa and Bondicherrey.

(b)Yes, Sir.

(e) An area of 17,144 hectare has been covered under centrally sponsored scheme on cas'newanut developent in the districts of Ganjam, Puri, Dhen-Kanal, Cuttach, Ksonjhar, Koraput, Balasore and Mayur-bhanj in Orissa.

(d) Under the schemes cm subsidised area expansion programme and under vegetative propagation programme on area of 14.011 hectare and 3133 hectare respectively have been covered in Orissa.

2577. *[Transferred to the Xlih December,* 1985].

Pnce Support fo_r ptu-cha* of Soyabean

2578. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Limited has finalised 'arrangements for puchase ctf soyabean and other Kharif oilseeds for 1985-86 seson;

(b) whether the price support operation has been finalised by NAFED and its constituent state level marketing federations 'and marketing societeis;

(c) whether the Central Government hav_e designated NAFED as the nodal agency for a period $_0$f 5 years for undertaking price support in kharif oilseeds;

(d) whether the NAFED has undertaken price support $peration_s$ in soyabean bet ween 1977-78 and 1980-81; and

(e) whether the production of soyabean ^{m} the country has incerased from th level of 1.5 lakhs tonnes in 1977-78 to the level of 10 $lath_s$ tonnes at present as a result thereof??

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND CO-OPERATION (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) 10 (c) In October, 1985, the Government designated NAFED a« the nodal agency for price